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1. For the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV), Thanh Hoa Province represents a source of manpower, paddy, and an important military base for a long term resistance. Thanh Hoa is divided into three areas:

- a. The maritime area comprising the districts of Nga Son, Quang Xuong, Dong Son, Nong Cong and others. Sam Son (105-53; 19-43) and Cuu Lo are convenient places for the Chinese Communists to land supplies transported by boat from Hainan to the DRV-held coastal zones. Quang Xuong and Nong Cong Districts produce a large amount of rice, double the usual yield because of improved irrigation. Most of the rice supplied to Interzone III comes from these two districts.
- b. The Central area comprising one-half of Dong Son, Thieu Hoa, Tho Xuan and Yen Dinh Districts. This area could eventually be used for an important military base because of the many gravel and dirt roads and many hills and small mountains located there.
- c. The "five districts" area comprising the districts of Cam Thuy, Thach Thanh, Ngoc Lac, Lang Chanh, Nhu Xuan, and La Han. Ninety percent of the total population of approximately 500,000 is Muong. The terrain is mountainous and wooded and is similar to the Hoa Binh area in Interzone III. During 1943-45 the Japanese sent troops into this area with the objective of eventually basing guerrillas there for use against an allied invasion of Indochina. The Japanese built several roads across the mountains and through the jungles. The existence of these roads is still generally unknown and the DRV carefully restricts outsiders from coming into certain regions. The DRV command uses these roads to move their troops from Cam Thuy to Vu Van (105-26; 20-27).

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In view of the possibility of a long-term resistance, the DRV has a group of 45 men concentrating on searching for caves and building roads in the Cam Thuy, Ngoc Lac and Lang Chanh areas for communication with Laos and Interzone V.

DRV Administrative Organization in Thanh Hoa Province

2. The provincial committee is composed of Le Viet Tao¹ who serves as President of the Committee and also as Secretary of the Thanh Hoa provincial committee of the Communist Party. Vo Nguyen Du, a Communist, is Vice-President of the Committee; Ho Sy Phan, an agricultural expert, is in charge of finance and economy. The other four members² are all farmers.
3. In 1951 the majority of the presidents of the Administrative and Resistance Committees of the districts and villages in Thanh Hoa Province were members of the Democratic Party. In 1952 those presidents who still maintained the confidence of the people were retained in office provided they became members of the Communist Party. The others were discharged or demoted. The difference between the Communists and the Democratic Party thus became deeper. The presidents of the committees, most of whom are small farmers and agricultural workers, have been very energetic in their jobs. Their enforcement of the agricultural taxes and the labor mobilizations is causing the people to hate the DRV regime more and more.

Living Conditions

4. The bombing of the Dai Thuong dam has had a serious effect on farming in this area which has always been dependent on irrigation. The Government has mobilized the local population, including women and children, to repair the damage to the dam. Women, are also mobilized for agricultural work and, at present, outnumber men engaged in this occupation. If the new rice crop is poor, not only Thanh Hoa but also Nghe An Province will suffer a rice shortage. Prices have doubled in the mountainous areas of Nong Cong, Tho Xuan, Lang Chanh and Ngoc Lac Districts. The price of 100 kilograms of rice in these areas has risen from 185,000 to 287,000 DRV piasters. DRV Government-owned rice, stored in caves as reserve stocks for the military, is being sold to the people who are also eating corn, arrow-roots and other roots. Regional forces had to move to the Dong Son area in order to obtain sufficient rice supplies for their own needs.

Reaction of the People

5. The people do not rise up against the Communist leadership because they have no leader. The DRV agents in Thanh Hoa lack experience and behave poorly toward the population. The people are very dissatisfied but no significant developments have occurred since Binh Xuan Cau and Nguyen Van Huong were arrested in Thach Thanh. The nationalist groups have lost courage and have not dared to start any anti-Communist activity in Thanh Hoa. The most significant nationalist force is the Mat Tran Dan Doc (The People's Front). The recent uprising in the Catholic villages in Nghia Loc District was initiated by this front. This uprising was rapidly repressed and several Catholic leaders in Nghia Loc were arrested. However the main leader of the Catholics in Nghia Loc succeeded in escaping and went to Dalat to report to Bao Dai. A large number of Muongs, headed by the Ha family, have moved out of Thanh Hoa to the Sam Neua (104-00; 20-20) area.

25X1 1. [] Comment. Tao is the brother of Le Viet Luong who is now Director General of the National Bank replacing Nguyen Luong Bang who is now DRV Ambassador to the Soviet Union.

25X1 25X1 2. [] Comment. [] did not give the names of these four members.

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